Task Book: Assessment Guide

Cadre: Information Technology

Organization: Logistics Section, Communications Unit

Position: Communications Unit Leader

Date: August 2006



Leading America to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Position Task Book: Purpose

Position task books have been developed for positions within the FEMA Disaster Workforce. Each task book lists the essential tasks for the specific position.

Task books are designed to:

- Describe the tasks to be performed for a given position.
- Determine training needs of individual employees.
- Serve as a tool for promoting task-related performance feedback throughout a deployment.
- Record performance assessment data.

At the completion of a deployment, your supervisor will identify the tasks you were able to perform and the tasks needing improvement. Task books do **NOT** replace the standard performance appraisal process.

Responsibilities

Listed below are the responsibilities associated with completion of this position task book.

The **Individual Employee** is responsible for:

- Reviewing and understanding instructions in this task book.
- Identifying desired objectives/goals related to the assigned tasks and subtasks.
- Providing background information to the supervisor.
- Demonstrating the ability to perform all tasks and subtasks for an assigned position.
- Working with the supervisor to improve performance as needed.

The **Supervisor** is responsible for:

- Being qualified and proficient in the position being evaluated or seeking technical assistance from someone who is qualified.
- Meeting with the individual employee and determining past experience, current qualifications, and desired objectives/goals.
- Reviewing task and subtask expectations with the individual employee.
- Explaining to the individual employee the evaluation procedures that will be used.
- Accurately evaluating and recording demonstrated performance of tasks and subtasks.
- Completing the evaluation record within this task book.
- Providing constructive feedback to the employee.
- Suggesting steps for improving performance as needed.

FEMA Task Books are produced by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

For more information or to suggest changes, corrections, or improvements, please contact:

Emergency Management Institute National Emergency Training Center Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727 * ATTN: "Position Task Book"

Assessment Instructions

This task book is used to guide the performance assessment process. Onsite supervisory personnel will assess members of the Disaster Workforce cadres using this document and provide feedback. This assessment process is to document performance of required tasks and to identify development plans for improvement.

Who Must Receive an Assessment? All personnel who have been deployed for a minimum of 10 days, including permanent full-time employees, disaster assistance employees (DAEs), and core positions, must receive an assessment. This assessment does NOT replace the completion of the FEMA 90-106, Performance Appraisal for DAEs. The information gathered from this assessment process can be used to support the performance appraisal process.

When Is Performance Assessed?

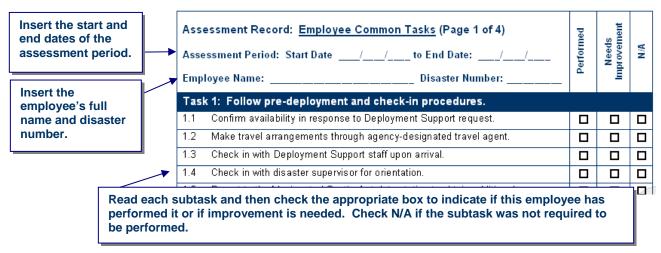
Mandatory: This assessment MUST be completed at the end of the deployment.

Optional: An interim assessment may be conducted when there is:

- A change in job title.
- A change in supervisor.
- Job performance indication that improvement is needed.
- An employee request for an assessment.

How Is the Assessment Completed?

Review the tasks listed. These task lists should be used to help you collect performance information. To collect performance information, you should observe the employee. Make sure you have specific examples of the employee's strengths and weaknesses. Then, complete the assessment record as follows:



After each set of tasks, add comments on the employee's strengths and areas for improvement. It is recommended that you conduct a feedback session in order to:

- Highlight accomplishments and positive performance.
- Provide constructive feedback in areas that need further development.

Find a private location to conduct the session. During the feedback session, you may want to:

- Begin by asking the individual to comment on his or her strengths and weaknesses.
- Next, present a summary of the overall performance strengths demonstrated during the performance period.
- Then, review the assessment record and comments. Discuss the areas requiring performance improvement.
- Encourage the individual to make comments regarding the assessment.
- Finally, sign and date each section.

Cadre: Information Technology

Organization: Logistics Section, Communications Unit

Position: Communications Unit Leader

Employee Common Tasks

- Follow pre-deployment and check-in procedures.
- Follow check-out procedures.
- Complete ongoing administrative procedures.
- Establish and maintain positive and ethical behaviors during interpersonal, intra-agency, and interagency interactions.
- Help resolve problems/issues and make effective decisions.
- Prepare written reports and other documents.
- Communicate orally with others to exchange and clarify information.
- Exhibit an understanding of relevant safety and security procedures.

Communications Unit Leader Position-Specific Tasks

- Manage the Communications Unit.
- Serve as the IT Coordinator for the disaster operation (if responsibilities are not delegated).
- Serve as the Information System Security Officer (ISSO) for the JFO.
- Coordinate the facility search with Logistics and facility checks.
- Participate in pre-deployment and closeout IT conference call.
- Coordinate with other Logistics Section Units to develop the JFO floor plan creation.
- Oversee the design of the network configuration (server location, workstation locations, printer locations, and access point locations).
- Coordinate with Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) and Disaster Response (DR) on server setup, resource and personnel planning, and phone switch and SpectraLink (wireless phone system) setup.
- Oversee the establishment of the Helpdesk function.
- Oversee the IT support to Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Mobilization Centers, Staging Areas, and Receiving Areas.
- Manage Communications Unit staff.
- Develop required reports.
- Create an open and team-based work environment.
- Oversee the ongoing professional development of assigned personnel.
- Perform closeout operations.

Asse	essment Record: Employee Common Tasks (Page 1 of 4)	ned	Needs Improvement	
Asse	ssment Period: Start Date/ to End Date://	Performed	Need	N A
Empl	oyee Name: Disaster Number:	Pe	lmp	
Task	1: Follow pre-deployment and check-in procedures.			
1.1	Confirm availability in response to Deployment Support request.			
1.2	Make travel arrangements through agency-designated travel agent.			
1.3	Check in with Deployment Support staff upon arrival.			
1.4	Check in with disaster supervisor for orientation.			
1.5	Complete check-in procedures at duty station to obtain additional information.			
1.6	Complete appropriate Federal waiver forms (retired Federal annuitants only).			
1.7	Report to the Logistics Helpdesk to obtain requisition for accountable property and network access.			
1.8	Obtain authorization for accountable property from supervisor.			
1.9	Locate assigned workspace.			
1.10	Pick up equipment (e.g., computer, phone) at Accountable Property Office (APO).			
1.11	Obtain pertinent information about the operation (about the disaster, Joint Field Office (JFO), facility safety and security).			
1.12	Review the task book for assigned position and clarify supervisor expectations as needed.			
1.13	Display DHS/FEMA identification in the proper manner (i.e., wear badge above the waist).			
1.14	Demonstrate full and consistent compliance with all pre-deployment policies and check-in procedures.			
Task	2: Follow check-out procedures.			
2.1	Schedule debriefing session with supervisor to complete the task book assessment record and performance appraisal.			
2.2	Submit final time and attendance (T&A) statement signed by supervisor.			
2.3	Make return travel arrangements through agency-designated travel agent.			
2.4	Prepare final travel voucher in coordination with the Cost Unit.			
2.5	Return equipment to APO for release.			
2.6	Clear workstation and return supplies to Supply Unit.			
2.7	Submit check-out form(s) with supporting documentation (e.g., task book assessment record, performance appraisal form) as instructed.			
2.8	Check out through Deployment Support staff with required information (e.g., job completed, rotation).			
2.9	Demonstrate full and consistent compliance with all policies and check-out procedures.			

Asse	essment Record: Employee Common Tasks (Page 2 of 4)	Performed	Needs Improvement	N/A
Task	3: Complete ongoing administrative procedures.			
3.1	Update Deployment Support and onsite supervisor with any changes in duty station, lodging, and/or emergency contact as needed.			
3.2	Complete T&A reports and input into automated system or submit for processing (bi-weekly).			
3.3	Prepare travel voucher in coordination with the Cost Unit on a bi-weekly basis.			
3.4	Get limited approvals (e.g., rental cars) renewed, as appropriate, on extended deployments.			
3.5	Reconcile Government credit card account statements with approved travel vouchers in accordance with split-pay policy.			
3.6	Demonstrate full and consistent compliance with all administrative procedures.			
	4: Establish and maintain positive and ethical behaviors during inte -agency, and interagency interactions.	rpers	onal,	
4.1	Maintain a high standard of ethics required of Federal employees that is consistent with FEMA core values.			
4.2	Demonstrate sensitivity to cultural diversity, race, gender, disabilities, and other individual differences in accordance with the Under Secretary's nondiscrimination policy.			
4.3	Take measures to safeguard confidential information and records.			
4.4	Foster consensus building among coworkers, supervisors, and others.			
4.5	Cultivate professional relationships with coworkers and others to exchange information and work effectively.			
4.6	Handle differences/disputes with others in a positive, constructive manner.			
4.7	Represent FEMA in a professional manner when working with internal and external parties.			
4.8	Establish an effective rapport with individuals who are initially difficult, emotional, or distressed.			
4.9	Relate effectively to people from varied backgrounds and different situations.			
4.10	Comply with chain-of-command principles by operating within the established lines of authority.			
4.11	Exhibit appropriate public stewardship of taxpayer dollars.			
4.12	Complete tasks using time and resources effectively and efficiently (e.g., keep travel time to a minimum, obtain lodging that is appropriate to duty station).			

Asse	essment Record: Employee Common Tasks (Page 3 of 4)	Performed	Needs Improvement	N/A
Task	5: Help resolve problems/issues and make effective decisions.			
5.1	Adapt behavior and work methods in response to new information, changing conditions, or unexpected obstacles.			
5.2	Identify and analyze issues and problems.			
5.3	Confer with coworkers, supervisor, and/or others as appropriate when making decisions.			
5.4	Generate alternative solutions or strategies to address problems or needs.			
5.5	Assess the impact of alternatives on the overall operation and work unit.			
5.6	Recommend alternative solutions or strategies for addressing the problems/issues.			
5.7	Contribute to group problem-solving efforts.			
5.8	Implement group-derived solutions or strategies to address problems/issues.			
5.9	Submit items for the Remedial Action Management Program (RAMP).			
5.10	Deal effectively with pressure; maintain focus and intensity and remain optimistic and persistent, even under adverse conditions.			
5.11	Exercise good judgment by making sound, well-informed, and timely decisions.			
Task	6: Prepare written reports and other documents.			
6.1	Write documents using "plain English" that are well organized and appropriate for the intended audience.			
6.2	Write clear and concise emails and other written documents.			
6.3	Use email and other official modes of written communication for business purposes only.			
6.4	Use computer software and programs required to support task performance.			
6.5	Submit written documents through the proper channels.			
6.6	Proofread written documents before submission to ensure correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation.			
6.7	Produce reports using established formats and on required forms.			
6.8	Develop written materials that are complete and accurate.			
Task	7: Communicate orally with others to exchange and clarify informati	ion.		
7.1	Share relevant information and/or developments with coworkers, as necessary.			
7.2	Explain decisions, conclusions, findings, or recommendations to the appropriate person or group.			
7.3	Attend meetings to obtain information for use in programs, or to inform management of program status.			
7.4	Represent the cadre's role in a manner that promotes awareness of capabilities, services, and accomplishments.			

Asso	essment Record: Employee Common Tasks (Page 4 of 4)	Performed	Needs Improvement	N/A
Tasl	k 8: Exhibit an understanding of relevant safety and security procedu	res.		
8.1	Provide for the safety, welfare, and accountability of coworkers during the entire period of deployment.			
8.2	Safeguard property and equipment.			
8.3	Communicate potentially hazardous situations to immediate supervisor or Safety Officer.			
8.4	Take necessary precautions when hazards exist.			
8.5	Protect personal information to prevent identity theft.			
8.6	Comply with mandatory Information Technology security procedures.			
8.7	Comply with the FEMA violence in the workplace policy.			
Employee Common Tasks and Subtasks Comments				
Asses	ssment Date:/			
Super	visor: Employee:			

Task Asse Empl	essment Record: Communications Unit Leader Position-Specific (Section 1)	Performed	Needs Improvement	N/A
	1: Manage the Communications Unit.	ı		
1.1	Verify that the proper numbers of Communications Unit personnel are deployed to support the operation.			
1.2	Establish teams to work in particular areas during JFO/Disaster Recovery Center/Mobilization Center setup.			
1.3	Utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) principles to ensure proper staffing supervision span of control.			
1.4	Manage day-to-day operations and ensure that customer expectations are met.			
1.5	Perform periodic staffing evaluations to determine if additional staff is required or if staff can be released.			
1.6	Manage staff rotations to ensure proper operational coverage.			
1.7	Prepare and deliver performance evaluations for subordinate staff.			
1.8	Oversee network and telecommunications operations and functions.			
1.9	Supervise Computer and Telecommunications Specialists when required (small JFO).			
1.10	Supervise Communications Unit Manager personnel when Managers are assigned to Communications Unit teams (medium to large JFO).			
	2: Serve as the IT Coordinator for the disaster operation (if responsigated).	ibilitie	s are i	not
2.1	Identify the required disaster IT services and assets.			
2.2	Provide for services and equipment through the use of the Telecommunications Information Management and Control System (TIMACS).			
2.3	Coordinate installation of voice and data circuits with service providers.			
2.4	Document the JFO configuration.			
2.5	Manage the services and equipment assets during the life of the operation.			
2.6	Plan the recovery of FEMA owned and leased equipment from the sites and from personnel.			
2.7	Order service disconnects, disconnect the services, and return assets when they are no longer required for the operation.			
Task	3: Serve as the Information System Security Officer (ISSO) for the J	FO.		
3.1	Verify that the file server and each computer has and maintains the latest virus definition file.			
3.2	Confirm that each workstation completes an automatic virus scan once each week.			
3.3	Verify that any virus that is detected and quarantined is removed. Remove the unit from service until the method of delivery of the virus is determined and the system is cleaned or reloaded.			
3.4	Check that all Microsoft security updates are installed on each workstation.			

	essment Record: <u>Communications Unit Leader Position-Specific</u> <u>s</u> (Page 2 of 6)	Performed	Needs Improvement	N/A
	3: Serve as the Information System Security Officer (ISSO) for the Ji	FO.		
3.5	Verify compliance with the established certification and accreditation for all deployed disaster support systems.			
3.6	Prepare a disaster operation plan in case of system failure.			
3.7	Review and, if necessary, respond to all Information Security Vulnerability Bulletins provided by the Computer Security Incident Response Center.			
3.8	Maintain compliance with the DHS Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) implementation plan.			
3.9	Check for any unauthorized hardware and software so that they are not introduced to the local network.			
3.10	Review software waiver for nonstandard software installation requests.			
Task	4: Coordinate the facility search with Logistics and facility checks.			
4.1	Determine Dmark location for all telecommunication services to the building.			
4.2	Estimate the number of spare pairs available at the Dmark location.			
4.3	Determine if cable/satellite communication services are available in the building.			
4.4	Identify local service provider and location of the central office.			
4.5	Request telecommunications facility check from Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center (MWEOC).			
4.6	Determine best location for telephone switch and server setup.			
4.7	Verify that the facility has adequate grounding and power to meet the requirements for IT assets. Pass concerns on to the Logistics Section Chief.			
Task	5: Participate in pre-deployment and closeout IT conference call.			
5.1	Attend and participate in the pre-deployment and closeout conference calls.			
5.2	Identify required equipment, services, and personnel assets for the setup/closeout of the operation. If required explain the rationale for the requirements.			
5.3	Identify the point of contact for each location and provide contact information for the individual(s).			
	6: Coordinate with other Logistics Section Units to develop the JFO	floor	plan	
creat				
6.1	Work with the Logistics Section Chief or his/her designee on the layout of the JFO.			
6.2	Identify potential locations for the network equipment, telephone switch, and service provider Dmark locations.			
6.3	Verify that the floor plan, if possible, does not exceed wiring standards for FEMA LAN/WAN connections.			
6.4	Develop and distribute procedures for addressing moves that affect the JFO floor plan.			

	essment Record: <u>Communications Unit Leader Position-Specific</u> ss (Page 3 of 6)	Performed	Needs Improvement	N/A
	7: Oversee the design of the network configuration (server location, tions, printer locations, and access point locations).	work	statio	n
7.1	Based on the approved floor plan, identify and configure the network and telecommunications switch room.			
7.2	Verify that voice and data circuits are extended to the server and switch locations.			
7.3	Develop a wiring diagram for installation of wireless access points, printers and remote switches.			
7.4	Identify, if required, locations for hard-wired workstations.			
7.5	Establish a lockable space for designated equipment (e.g., servers, switches, routers, and other communications equipment).			
Resp	t 8: Coordinate with Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) and conse (DR) on server setup, resource and personnel planning, and phectraLink (wireless phone system) setup.			
8.1	Identify the requirement for MERS and DR equipment and personnel during the pre-deployment and closeout conference calls.			
8.2	Integrate the MERS and DR staff with regional permanent full-time (PFT) and Disaster Assistance Employee (DAE) staff to accomplish the mission.			
8.3	Manage the MERS and DR resources and release/return as the assets are no longer required.			
8.4	Coordinate changes with MERS/DR management.			
Task	9: Oversee the establishment of the Helpdesk function.			
9.1	Install the Helpdesk software.			
9.2	Assign Helpdesk tickets to technicians.			
9.3	Oversee the timely completion of Helpdesk tickets.			
9.4	Ensure that customer service expectations of the JFO management staff are being met.			
	10: Oversee the IT support to Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Mo	obiliza	ation	
	ers, Staging Areas, and Receiving Areas.			
10.1	Coordinate with the Logistics Section Chief to identify support requirements for facilities external to the JFO.			
10.2	Identify required equipment, services, and personnel assets required for the setup/closeout of each facility.			
10.3	Identify the point of contact for each location and provide contact information for the individual.			
10.4	Issue TIMACS requests for the necessary services and equipment.			
10.5	Manage the services and assets for each facility during the life of the operation.			
10.6	Disconnect services and return assets when no longer required for each facility.			
10.7	Verify that all services have been disconnected and that all bills are paid.			

Task	essment Record: <u>Communications Unit Leader Position-Specific</u> <u>s</u> (Page 4 of 6)	Performed	Needs Improvement	N/A
	11: Manage Communications Unit staff.			
11.1	Assign tasks and establish priorities for staff members to balance the workload.			
11.2	Ensure that adequate supervisors are assigned to maintain an optimal span of control.			
11.3	Provide clear direction, assignments, and guidance to effectively structure and organize work activities, maximize productivity, and fulfill the incident objectives.			
11.4	Brief HR staff members on relevant parts of the Incident Action Plan/JFO Coordination Plan and information received from meetings.			
11.5	Develop and communicate emergency procedures that are consistent with the safety and security plans in a timely manner.			
11.6	Provide for the safety and welfare of assigned personnel during the entire period of supervision.			
11.7	Establish and communicate basic work procedures (e.g., work hours, rotation schedule, contact list, staggering of work hours).			
11.8	Monitor employee performance to assess the need for possible rest or rotation.			
11.9	Assess the need for and monitor the use of overtime hours, avoiding unnecessary expenditures.			
11.10	Lead by example through acting in a fair and ethical manner toward others and demonstrating commitment to public service.			
11.11	Write performance appraisals and discuss the results with staff members.			
11.12	Complete task book assessment records and discuss the results with staff members.			
11.13	Develop standardized guidelines or checklist for staff on how equipment (laptops, printers, scanners, etc.) is to be set up, addressing standardized installation procedures, naming conventions, file placement, etc., and providing information on where resources (drivers, software applications, etc.) are located.			
11.14	Establish policy guidelines for staff regarding acceptable connectivity procedures for personnel from other Federal agencies, the State, volunteer agencies, and contractors wanting to access their respective networks, email, etc.			
Task	12: Develop required reports.			
12.1	Obtain periodic status reports from staff and others.			
12.2	Provide situation report information to the Logistics Section Chief or Logistics Services Branch Director.			
12.3	Provide situation updates to the Logistics Section Chief or Logistics Services Branch Director in preparation for the FCO Briefing.			
12.4	Inform the Logistics Section Chief or Logistics Services Branch Director of any and all problems that may affect the delivery of disaster response and recovery assistance.			

	essment Record: <u>Communications Unit Leader Position-Specific</u> ss (Page 5 of 6)	Performed	Needs Improvement	N/A
Task	12: Develop required reports. (Continued)			
12.5	progress, personal observations, and reports from staff members.			
12.6	Review and approve HR Unit reports being provided to the Planning Section.			
12.7	Maintain Unit/Activity Log (ICS Form 214).			
Task	13: Create an open and team-based work environment.			
13.1	Encourage open communication and input from assigned personnel.			
13.2	Foster consensus-building among assigned personnel.			
13.3	Create a work environment where individuals are treated fairly in accordance with FEMA guidelines.			
13.4	Promote a teamwork environment that encourages individuals to share knowledge, work cooperatively, engage in continuous learning, and contribute fully to team-based efforts.			
13.5	Distribute work equitably and appropriately among team members.			
13.6	Take corrective action when problems arise.			
13.7	Recognize effective individual and team performance.			
Task	14: Oversee the ongoing professional development of assigned pers	sonne	el.	
14.1	Conduct orientation sessions and arrange on-the-job training for new hires.			
14.2	Arrange for ongoing training and professional development for assigned personnel to develop required skill sets.			
14.3	Coach and guide personnel in techniques and skills for handling challenging interactions and difficult situations.			
14.4	Coach personnel so that they can develop and maintain skills.			
14.5	Verify that assigned personnel attend mandatory training.			
Task	15: Perform closeout operations.			
15.1	Determine from management when sites are to be closed.			
15.2	Perform the recovery of FEMA owned and leased equipment from the sites and from personnel.			
Task	t 16: Perform other duties, as assigned.			

Organization: Logistics Section, Communications Unit
Position Title: Communications Unit Leader

Assessment Record: Communications Unit Leader Position-Specific Tasks
(Page 6 of 6)

Communications Unit Leader Position-Specific Tasks and Subtasks Comments

Assessment Date: ___/____

Supervisor: _____ Employee: ______